

PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

Considerable effort has been taken in seeking public input to establish priorities. As part of the master planning process, a public survey was conducted and twelve community meetings were held throughout the City which included all Council districts. The number one priority in almost all geographic sectors was to rehabilitate and renovate existing, previously developed parks. For neighborhood parks, typical improvements will include trails, picnic areas and furnishings, playgrounds and landscaping. For larger parks, improvements may also address sports fields, swimming pools, and recreation centers. Listed below are the top priorities for each of the seven geographic sectors.

Central Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Build more soccer fields
3. Rehabilitate existing swimming pools and/or provide new water play opportunities
4. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous
5. Acquire new park property and/or acquire property for park expansions
6. Improve existing metro parks

Central Sector Projects

- New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Shepherd/Dunlavy/W. Gray/Westheimer	Pocket
1	Shepherd/Montrose/Westheimer/Richmond	Pocket
1	Midtown (multiple sites)	Pocket
1	Ella/TC Jester/W. 11 th	Neighborhood
1	I-45/Lockwood/Collingsworth/North Loop	Neighborhood
1	Buffalo Bayou	Regional
1	Little Thicket Park Expansion	Neighborhood
1	Eastwood Park Expansion	Community
1	Beech White Park Expansion	Community
2	Fulton/Irvington/N. Loop/Cavalcade	Pocket
2	West Loop/Railroad/Westheimer/Richmond	Pocket
2	Heights Blvd./Studewood/11 th St./White Oak Dr.	Pocket
2	Montrose/Spur 527/Westheimer/Richmond	Pocket
2	Montrose/Bagby/W. Gray/Westheimer	Pocket
2	Railroad/Railroad/Navigation/Harrisburg	Pocket
2	Cullent/MLK Blvd./Griggs/Yellowstone	Neighborhood
2	Ingrando Park Expansion	Community
2	Mason Park Expansion	Regional
3	N. Main/Airline/N. Loop/Cavalcade	Pocket
3	Harrisburg/Sunset Trail/Brays Bayou	Pocket
3	W. Loop/North Frwy./N. Loop/Katy Frwy	Community
3	Zollie Scales Park Expansion	Community

- Park Development/Redevelopment
 - Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
 1. Shiffick (Pocket) Park
 2. Tony Marron (Community) Park
 - Hermann Park (continue redevelopment)
 - Memorial Park (complete new master plan and implement)
 - Buffalo, Brays, White Oak, and Little White Oak Bayou Linear Parks
 - Harrisburg and Sunset Rails to Trails
 - Undeveloped/Vacant Sites
- Recreation Facility Development/Redevelopment
 - Soccer fields at 11 existing and proposed parks
 - Existing swimming pools
 - Olympic-quality natatorium
- Park Maintenance Facilities
 - Tuttle (replace and relocate)
- Park Headquarters (construct new facility)

Southeast Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Improve and/or develop existing vacant or underdeveloped sites
3. Build new recreation centers
4. Rehabilitate existing swimming pools and/or provide new water play opportunities
5. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous
6. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
7. Improve metro parks

Southeast Sector Projects

- New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Monroe/Edgebrook/Airport Blvd./Alameda Genoa	Neighborhood
2	Telephone/Monroe/Alameda Genoa/Fuqua	Neighborhood
2	Edgebrook/Beamer/Fuqua/South Belt	Neighborhood
2	Scarsdale/Dixie Farm Rd./Beamer/Gulf Frwy.	Neighborhood
2	Gulf Frwy/S. Loop/La Porte Frwy/City limit	Community
2	Scottcrest Park Expansion	Community
3	Scott/Cullen/Bellfort/Reed	Neighborhood
3	Telephone/Broadway/Bellfort/Airport Blvd.	Neighborhood
3	Scarsdale/FM 1959/Gulf Frwy/Old Galveston Rd.	Neighborhood
3	Wilson Memorial Park Expansion	Community

- Park Development/Redevelopment
 - Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
 - Undeveloped/Vacant sites
 1. Clear Lake (Regional) Park
 2. Blackhawk (Regional) Park
 - Law Park (further development)
 - Sims and Hosepen Bayou, Berry and Clear Creek Linear Parks
- Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment
 - Soccer fields at two sites
 - New recreation center at Wilson Memorial Park
 - Existing swimming pools
- Park Maintenance Facilities
 - Sims (replace and relocate)

Southwest Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Improve and/or develop existing vacant or underdeveloped sites
3. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
4. Rehabilitate existing swimming pools and/or provide new water play opportunities
5. Build new recreation centers
6. Develop new park property
7. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous

Southwest Sector Projects

- **New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions**

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Fondren/Hillcroft/Beechnut/Braeswood	Neighborhood
1	Gulfton	Community
1	Chimney Rock/S. Post Oak/Bellfort/S. Main	Community
1	Kirkwood/W. Belt/Beechnut/Bellfort	Regional
1	Townwood Park Expansion	Community
1	Whiting and Marion Christian Park Expansion	Regional
2	Fondren/Hillcroft/Harwin/S.W. Frwy	Neighborhood
2	W. Belt/Gessner/Westpark/Bellaire	Neighborhood
2	Fondren/Hillcroft/Bellfort/Airport Blvd.	Neighborhood
2	S. Post Oak/Hiram Clarke/Fuqua/S. Belt	Neighborhood
2	W. Belt/Brays Bayou/Beechnut/Bissonnet	Community
2	Gessner/Hillcroft/Westpark/Bissonnet	Community
2	Cambridge Village Park Expansion	Regional
3	Wilcrest/W. Belt/Beechnut/Bissonnet	Neighborhood
3	Fondren/Hillcroft/Willowbend/Bellfort	Neighborhood
3	Buffalo Speedway/Alameda/Airport Blvd./Orem	Neighborhood
3	Synott/Kirkwood/Beechnut/Bellfort	Community
3	City ETJ – Fort Bend County	Metro

- **Park Development/Redevelopment**

- Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
- Undeveloped Vacant Sites
 1. Forum (Neighborhood) Park
 2. Sand Canyon (Community) Park
- Proposed new southwest metro park (master planning)
- Brays, Keegans, and Sims Bayou Linear Parks

- Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment
 - Soccer fields at six existing and proposed parks
 - New recreation centers
 1. Townwood Park
 2. Fort Bend County (site to be determined)
 - Existing swimming pools
- Park Maintenance Facilities
 - New facility at Cambridge Village (Regional) Park

West Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Improve and/or develop existing vacant or underdeveloped sites
3. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
4. Rehabilitate existing swimming pools and/or provide new water play opportunities
5. Build new recreation centers
6. Develop new park property
7. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous

West Sector Projects

- New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	SH 6/Eldridge/Buffalo Bayou/Briarforest	Neighborhood
1	Chimney Rock/Sage/Westheimer/Richmond	Neighborhood
1	Eldridge/Dairy Ashford/Briarforest/Westheimer	Community
1	Fondren/Voss/Buffalo Bayou/Richmond	Community
1	Hollister/Bingle/Kempwood/Hammerly	Regional
2	Gessner/Blalock/Clay/Kempwood	Neighborhood
2	Bingle/Wirt/Hammerly/Long Point	Neighborhood
2	Wilcrest/W. Belt/Buffalo Bayou/Briarforest	Neighborhood
2	Kirkwood/W. Belt/Katy Frwy/Buffalo Bayou	Neighborhood
2	Kirkwood/W. Belt/Westheimer/Alief-Clodine	Community
2	Glenmore Forest Park Expansion	Neighborhood
3	W. Belt/Gessner/Clay/Hammerly	Neighborhood
3	Fairbanks N. Houston/NW Frwy/Hempstead/Pinemont	Neighborhood
3	Wirt/Silber/Westview/Katy Frwy	Neighborhood
3	Eldridge/Dairy Ashford/Buffalo Bayou/Briarforest	Neighborhood
3	Voss/Chimney Rock/San Felipe/Westheimer	Neighborhood
3	Eldridge/Kirkwood/Westheimer/Alief-Clodine	Community

- Park Development/Redevelopment

- Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
- Undeveloped Vacant Sites
 1. Haden (Community) Park
 2. Waldeman (Neighborhood) Park
- Buffalo and Brays Bayou Linear Parks

- Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment
 - Soccer fields at two sites
 - New recreation centers
 1. Spring Branch area at proposed regional park
 2. Woodlake/Briar Meadow area at proposed community park
 3. Briarforest/Westchase area at proposed community park
 - Existing swimming pools
- Park Maintenance Facilities
 - New facility near Katy Freeway and West Belt

Northwest Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Improve and/or develop existing vacant or underdeveloped sites
3. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
4. Build new recreation centers
5. Develop new park property
6. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous

Northwest Sector Projects

- **New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions**

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Airline/City limit/Aldine Bender/West Rd	Neighborhood
1	North Frwy/Airline/Parker/Tidwell	Neighborhood
1	Hollister/Railroad/Gulf Bank/Little York	Community
1	Jester Parkway	Linear
2	Shepherd/North Frwy/Parker/Tidwell	Neighborhood
2	Cebra/W. Montgomery/Little York/Tidwell	Neighborhood
2	Fulton/Hardy/Crosstimbers/N. Loop	Neighborhood
2	Antoine/White Oak Bayou/Little York/Tidwell	Community
2	North Belt area, west of North Frwy	Metro
2	W. Mount Houston Park Expansion	Regional
3	W. Montgomery/N. Victory/Shepherd	Neighborhood
3	W. Montgomery/Wheatley/Gulf Bank/N. Victory	Neighborhood
3	Airline/Hardy/Tidwell/Crosstimbers	Neighborhood
3	N. Frwy/Hardy/Little York/N. Loop	Community
3	White Oak Bayou/Shepherd/Gulf Bank/Pinemont	Community

- **Park Development/Redevelopment**
 - Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
 - Undeveloped Vacant Sites
 1. Stuebner-Airline (Community) Park
 2. West Mount Houston (Regional) Park
 - Proposed new northwest metro park (master planning)
 - White Oak and Greens Bayou Linear Parks
- **Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment**
 - Soccer fields at four existing and proposed parks
 - New recreation center for Greater Inwood area at proposed community park
 - Existing swimming pools
- **Park Maintenance Facilities**
 - Langwood (replace and relocate to commercial/industrial area)

Northeast Sector Priorities

1. Rehabilitate and renovate existing parks
2. Improve Metro Parks
3. Improve and/or develop existing vacant or underdeveloped sites
4. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
5. Build new recreation centers
6. Improve and/or expand linear parks along bayous

Northeast Sector Projects

- **New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions**

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Homestead/Railyards/N. Loop/Bennington	Community
1	Hardy Tidwell Park Expansion	Community
1	Herman Brown Park Expansion	Metro
2	Wayside/Mesa/Little York/Tidwell	Neighborhood
2	Lockwood/Homestead/Tidwell/Ley	Neighborhood
2	John Ralston/Maxey/Woodforest/East Frwy	Neighborhood
2	Tidwell Park Expansion	Regional
2	Curry St. Park Expansion	Regional
3	Hirsch/Homestead/Mt. Houston Pkwy/Little York	Neighborhood
3	Homestead/Wayside/Mt. Houston Pkwy/Little York	Neighborhood
3	Mesa/Oates/Little York/Tidwell	Neighborhood
3	S. Lake Houston Pkwy/Old Beaumont Hwy/Greens Bayou	Neighborhood
3	Withers Park Expansion	Neighborhood

- **Park Development/Redevelopment**

- Parks to Standard Program for existing parks
- Herman Brown Park (further development)
- Keith Wiess Park (update master plan and implement)
- Greens, Halls, and Hunting Bayou Linear Parks
- Undeveloped Vacant Sites
 1. Hardy Tidwell (Community) Park
 2. Grand River (Neighborhood) Park
 3. Withers (Neighborhood) Park

- **Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment**

- Soccer fields at two sites
- New recreation center at Maxey Park
- Existing swimming pools

- **Park Maintenance Facilities**

- Wiess and Tidwell (replace, combine and relocate to Keith Wiess Park)

Far Northeast Sector Priorities

1. Acquire new property and/or acquire property for park expansions
2. Build new recreation centers
3. Improve and/or expand linear parks along rivers and creeks

Far Northeast Sector Projects

- New Park Acquisitions or Park Expansions

Priority Group	Vicinity	Park Type
1	Ley Rd./Eastex Frwy/Rankin/ Greens Rd	Neighborhood
1	Mills Branch/Caney Creek/County line/Northpark	Community
2	San Jacinto Park Expansion	Linear
3	Loop 494/Woodland Hills/Kingwood Dr./Hamblen	Neighborhood

- Park Development/Redevelopment
 - San Jacinto River, Spring Creek, and Caney Creek Linear Parks
- Recreational Facility Development/Redevelopment
 - Soccer fields at proposed community park in Kingwood
 - New recreation centers at proposed community park in Kingwood
- Park Maintenance Facilities
 - New facility at proposed community park in Kingwood

PRIORITIZATION GUIDELINES

Parks to Standard Program

The following criteria will be used to help prioritize individual PTS projects within each geographic sector:

- 1) Proximity of other parks already brought up to standards
- 2) Proximity of SPARK sites
- 3) Conformity of the site with the Transition Guidelines regarding street frontage
- 4) Condition of facilities and their appropriateness for the park type
- 5) Park and/or facility usage
- 6) Opportunities for financial assistance from alternative public or private sources
- 7) Presence of adjacent land uses that are detrimental to a quality park environment
- 8) Changes in land use within a park environs; specifically residential to nonresidential
- 9) Population density of area (See Appendix A)
- 10) Population characteristics of an area (See Appendix B)
- 11) Changes in the elementary school-age population from 1990 to 1998 (See Appendix C)

New Parks

The following criteria have been used to prioritize parkland needs:

- Land availability
- Land development activity
- Partnering opportunity with other public/semi-public agency
- Expressed citizen support
- Population density of super neighborhood
- Park type
- Proximity to existing parks
- Proximity to a SPARK program site
- Usage levels of existing facilities
- Survey results
- Visibility and impact of acquisition
- Basis for need (standard-based, demand-based, and/or resource-based)
- Access and security issues
- Proximity to other proposed land acquisitions
- Council districting

Neighborhoods without a SPARK site should be given higher priority than those that do. While the SPARK program has done an excellent job of providing recreational

opportunities in neighborhoods unserved by City parks, a SPARK site should not be considered as a permanent substitute for a City park.

Linear Parks

Linear park development with hike and bike trail construction will continue to be implemented according to the Comprehensive Bikeway Plan adopted in 1993. The Plan outlined phases based on set criteria with individual projects prioritized in one of four groups:

- Priority 1 – years 1 and 2
- Priority 2 – years 3 to 5
- Priority 3 – years 5 to 10
- Priority 4 – years 10 and beyond

Overall construction timing depends on the availability of funds and the demand for bikeways, as well as future growth and development patterns.

FUNDING SOURCES

Listed below are potential public and private sector sources of financial assistance and/or participation to implement this Master Plan.

Public Sources

- City capital improvement bond funds
- Community venue bonds
- County capital improvement program for acquisition and development of regional and metro parks
- Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget with annual allocations to address the most urgent needs
- City's Public Works C.I.P. for street paving projects
- Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (T.I.R.Z.'s)
- Public Improvement District/Management Districts
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- State matching grants through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Metro's mobility program for major thoroughfare paving projects
- Resources of land owned by other public entities (i.e. school districts, counties, other City departments, etc.)
- Harris County Flood Control District, regarding linear parks and storm water detention facilities
- Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (I.S.T.E.A.), regarding bikeways
- Joint ventures with other City departments, such as Health and Human Services regarding multi-purpose centers
- Revenues from concessions, tournaments at athletic facilities, special events, and municipal golf courses
- User fees

Private sources

- Foundation grants and donations of money or land coordinated through the Houston Parks Board
- Corporation grants and donations, also coordinated through the Houston Parks Board
- Greater Houston Partnership
- Private individual donations
- Trust for Public Land (TPL), regarding land acquisition
- Fundraising activities by the Friends of Hermann Park and other similar organizations
- Houston Parks Board's Neighborhood Partnership Program
- Corporate sponsorships such as the Pennies for Playgrounds Program sponsored by KHOU-TV Channel 11
- Tree planting programs by Trees for Houston
- Fundraising efforts by the Park People
- Buffalo Bayou Partnership (Land acquisition, site development, and fund raising activities)
- Bayou Preservation Association activities and programs
- Community sports associations (ex: Little League Baseball)
- Joint venture partners (i.e. community improvement associations)